

The Development of Baptism.

BY T. J. FAHRNEY.

The Christians work does not end with baptism. Some people have an idea that if they are baptized, and then once or twice a year, in a literal manner, obey two or three of the commands of Christ, they have obeyed Paul and worked out their salvation. I do not think so. The commands should be obeyed. The requirements of the Master carried out, and baptism accepted "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ." Every believer should put on Christ, but the work does not end with the ordinance of baptism, or of any other ordinance.

Doctrinal regeneration is a snare and a delusion. The going into water, is not enough. The baptismal act must be developed in life. Our thoughts, words and acts must correspond with our baptismal vows. If we are baptized for the remission of sin, then we must prove our belief by keeping clear of sin, and if by the tempter wearied into sin, we must immediately make use of our intercessor and renew our vows that we may go on to perfection.

The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life. Adam formed of clay is but a dead form, breathed into by God, he becomes a living soul. Formality is but a dead letter, a mere outline. There must be a divine breathing, a filling up of the spirit. Then and then only will there be a well developed Christian, a full rounded saint, a divinely unfolded flower ripe for the eternal transplanting.

For this purpose the spirit is linked with water. "Except a man be born of water and the spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" fell from the lips of the perfect man, and, have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? was asked by those who received their orders from Christ. Fire is good, and water is good, but it takes water and fire to get steam. We want more spiritual stream, more life-giving power, more consecrated energy, more spiritual development.

Good food, fresh air, and plenty of exercise will obtain it. We are to continually taste and see that the Lord is good. We are to drink of the spiritual rock that follows us. We are to live in its atmosphere of heaven, made pure by the circulation of faith, and hope, and love, and prayer, and we are to take plenty of exercise. The Master went about doing good, and we his professed followers should seek to walk in his footsteps. Neglecting food, air, and exercise, is the cause of so many dwarfs being in the world. Depending on formality has stunted their growth.

One way to develop our own baptism is to bear with those who have not developed theirs. To leave a man drown because he is too weak to clutch a life preserver would be murder. To throw a man from the gospel ship because he is not fully developed, would be sin. If you have more spirituality than your brother, it is your unbounded duty to stand by that brother and let him catch some of your fire. Forget not to bear one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ.

Baptism is right. Its vows are sacred, its obligations are binding, but to make it a witness for Christ, an emblem of remission, an ordinance of beauty, and a joy forever, it must be patiently, prayerfully and faithfully developed in our lives, at home, in business, through society and in the church of God.

Downsville, Md.

A Farewell Address.

I am now about to deliver my last and final farewell address to the Brethren church at Beatrice, Holmsville, and Pickrell, Gage county, Neb. I commenced my pastorate work with you on the 22nd day of May 1887 and closed May 20, 1888. The subject which I call your attention to, is Paul's charge to the Corinthians. "Watch ye; stand fast in the faith; quit you like men, be strong."

The language of Paul in the text is quite of a martial description. It appears to me at once to be the address of a general to his troops; as he was saying to them: Do not neglect your duty; see that the sentinels are at their post. Be firm and unyielding as valiant men.

The charge consists of several parts. First, vigilance "Watch ye." This is the opposite of

sloth, and indifference, slumber, etc. Our position in this life is critical. We are passing through the county of the enemy. He is called the god of this world. Here he has his seat. Sometimes our own hearts are deceitful. The strongest have been overcome. The wisest deceived etc. For proof we refer to Sampson, David, Solomon, Peter, etc. How very important, then, that we be vigilant. The next part of the charge is *constancy*. "Stand fast in the faith." Earnestly contend for the faith, etc. On Christ the foundation of faith." Other foundation can no man lay." All else is yielding sand. Stand fast. The standard of faith is the Holy Scriptures. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." Faith as the hand of the soul, it must hold fast the horn of salvation and it must distinguish all our reading, hearing, praying, etc. We must live by faith in the Son of God etc. In the next place this charge, comprises *manliness*. "Quit you like men." Be prudent as men, in understanding and knowledge. Decided as men, not wavering, but resolved and determined as men of God. Not timid and fearful as a child, but full of holy boldness. This includes *strength*. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Our sufficiency is in God, through Christ Jesus our Lord. Be strong. Not in yourselves, but in the grace of Christ Jesus. Be increasingly strong. Grow in grace etc. Be practically strong. Lay it out, devote it to God. Be perseveringly strong. Go from strength to strength, from conquering to conquer, until the alarm of war be exchanged for the shout of victory and triumph.

My dear brethren and sisters as your pastor who have labored as a minister of the Gospel of Christ for over thirty-five years, feels like pressing the charge upon you. First, because your cause is good. Your captain is great. Your armory is perfect. Every weapon, both defensive and offensive, is provided for you. See Eph. 6: 13. Every part of the Christian's person is protected, except the back; and therefore he cannot sustain injury unless it be in retreating. The victory is certain. The reward will be glorious. "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold of eternal life." "Be thou faithful until death." "Him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne even as I also overcome, and am sit down with my Father in His throne.

J. NICHOLSON.

Morrill, Kan., June 7, 1888.

She Pulled Out the Main Spring.

A lady—never mind her name—was presented with a nice watch. She examined it closely, and greatly admired its beautiful appearance. On one occasion she opened the case, and took a look at its works, thinking she saw a hair among the moving wheels. She took a pin, and pulled out the supposed hair and lo! she had pulled out the main spring of her watch.

You smile at her folly, but men and women are doing a more foolish thing. They are pulling out the main spring of life.

A young man reaches an age when hope is bright, and prospects are most fair. With care and economy he expects to control his own business and enjoy life. But he goes in company with fast young men, becomes careless of person, slothful in business, regardless of truth, thoughtless of the future, takes a drink now and then to show he is not tied to his mother's apron string, spends his money for that which is not bread, and his labor for that which robs him of his good name, reputation, influence, and character. He finally finds himself a social and business wreck. What has that young man done but pulled out the main spring of life.

A young lady reaches an age, when she commences to realize the possibilities of life. Her thoughts dart into the future, and by faith she sees herself in the shelter of her own Eden. Her blood runs warm, and nerves tingle with expectation. But she pursues her own course, rejects father's advice and mother's council, and spends her days among the butterflies of fashion. As the twig is bent the tree inclines. She carries into her own home her own bent and worldly twisted ideas, beats her children, and scolds her husband, faults her neighbors and laughs at religion. In place of an Eden she makes Hades. What has that woman

done but pulled out the main spring of life.

An individual is impressed by the Holy Ghost the Christ is Lord. There are some things about the Bible, about Christ, about religion, that the individual cannot understand. There may be some people in the church not as perfect as they ought to be, and the individual looks at them with the small end of the glass. Their imperfections seem very large. Doubt is planted. The weeds grow fast, trouble comes. No words of comfort are heard. Without Christ, hurts. Bereavements comes. Without Christ bereavement is a calamity. Death comes. Without Christ death makes a coward of all hemeets, for death to such has a hurtful sting. The sting of death is sin. The death bed is Christless, and the soul is a spiritual wreck. What has that individual done but pulled out the main spring of life.

Such cases are not children of the imagination. Their counterparts are found in the Bible, and in the world around us.

Sampson in wasting his time with Deliah, pulled out the main spring of life, and blinded, went down to death.

Ahab in taking the bright garment which appealed to his fancy, and the wedge of gold which appealed to his acquisitiveness, pulled out the main spring of life and went to an untimely grave.

Belshazzar in wasting precious time, while the foe was at his gate, and using sacred vessels in profane service, pulled out the main spring of life, and with the great city, fell before the power of Cyrus.

Men and women today like men and women of yesterday, are tampering with the vital part of their existence, and are suffering the terrible consequences.

You laugh at the woman, for pulling out the main spring of her watch, but see to it young man and woman, that by sin of omission or commission you do not pull out the main spring of life, and go down to eternal death.

JOHN DUKE McFADEN.

The Christian's Reward.

When Garibaldi was going out to battle, he told his troops what he wanted them to do, and after he had described what he wanted them to do, they said:

"Well, General, what are you going to give us for all this?"

"Well," he replied, "I don't know what else you will get; but you will get hunger and cold, and wounds and death. How do you like it?"

His men stood before him for a little while in silence, and then they threw up their hands and cried: "We are the men! We are the men!"

The Lord Jesus Christ calls you to his service: I do not promise you an easy time in this world. You may have persecutions and trials and misrepresentations; but afterward there comes an eternal weight of glory, and you can bear the wounds and the bruises and the misrepresentations, if you can have the reward afterward. Have you not enthusiasm enough to cry out, "We are the men! We are the men!"—T. De Witt Talmage.

Faith.

Many a man put in the seed who never saw the harvest, just as many another brought home ripe sheaves on which he bestowed no labor save that of the sickle. The worker for Christ, therefore, is to work in faith, expecting the divine Hand to secure the result. He has abundant reason to believe that good is done of which he has no knowledge, and will have none until the great day. It may be necessary to his spiritual welfare that he should be kept in this ignorance. And certainly he renders no small honor to the Master when he perseveres in the face of all discouragement.—Religious Herald.

What men want is not talent, it is purpose; in other words, not the power to achieve, but the will to labor.—Bulwer-Lytton.

I am content to fill just my little corner, only so I let the light of Christ shine through me always.—Mary E. Erwin.

If men had only temptations to great sins, they would always be good; but the daily fight with little ones accustoms them to defeat.